AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

A marked-up version of the claims that will be pending following entry of the present amendments showing the amendments made herein follows. Matter that has been deleted from the claims is indicated by strikethrough and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining.

1. (Currently amended) A method of processing non-fetal donor liver tissue to obtain an enriched population of progenitor cells comprising:

(a) providing non-fetal donor tissue obtained ~~greater than~~ between about 2 hours and about 30 hours postmortem; and

(b) processing said non-fetal donor tissue to obtain an enriched population of progenitor cells.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 in which the donor tissue is obtained within about 2 hours and about six hours after the heartbeat ceased.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 in which the donor tissue is obtained within about 2 hours and about three hours after the heartbeat ceased.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the donor tissue is cooled.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the donor tissue is cooled to about 4 °C.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 in which the donor is an adult.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 in which the donor is a pig or a primate.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 in which the processing step provides a single cell suspension or an explant.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 in which the processing step additionally comprises selecting from the suspension those cells that express at least one marker associated positively or negatively with at least one progenitor cell lineage.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 in which the processing step additionally comprises a debulking step, to provide a debulked cell suspension enriched in progenitors exhibiting at least one marker associated with at least one progenitor cell lineage.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 in which the at least one progenitor cell lineage includes hepatic cell lineage.

16. (Currently amended) A method of procuring liver progenitor cells, comprising:

(a) providing a non-beating heart donor ~~greater than~~ between about 2 hours and 30 hours postmortem as a liver tissue source;

(b) obtaining liver tissue from said donor; and

(c) processing the liver tissue to obtain the progenitor cells.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the donor is a mammal.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the mammal is a human.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the progenitor cells have the capacity to develop into hepatocytes, biliary cells, or a combination thereof.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the cells of the donor express at least one of alpha-fetoprotein, albumin, bone sialoprotein, CD14, CD34, CD38, CD90, CD45, CD117, ICAM-1, collagen type I, collagen type II, collagen type III, glycophorin A, or osteopontin.

21. (Currently amended) A method of ~~providing~~ processing a liver tissue having at least one progenitor cell population as a source of progenitor cells, comprising:

(a) providing a donor having a non-beating heart ~~greater than~~ between about 2 hours and 30 hours postmortem;

(b) harvesting the tissue from the donor, the tissue having at least one progenitor cell population; and

(c) processing further the harvested tissue to obtain progenitor cells.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of ~~providing~~ processing a liver tissue having at least one diploid cell population as a source of diploid cells, comprising:

(a) harvesting a tissue from a donor having a non-beating heart and ~~greater than~~ between about 2 hours and about 30 hours postmortem at a time when the tissue is harvested, the tissue harvested being suspected of having at least one diploid cell population;

(b) processing the harvested tissue to obtain a population of cells enriched in diploid cells.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 in which the donor is not a fetus.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 in which the donor is an adult.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23 in which the diploid cells include progenitors.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 in which the processing step comprises processing the harvested tissue to provide a single cell suspension.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 in which the processing step further comprises separating the single cell suspension into two or more fractions.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which the separating step separates larger cells from smaller cells, higher density cells from lower density cells, or both.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 in which one or more fractions consisting essentially of smaller cells, lower density cells, or both, are further processed to provide a population of cells enriched in diploid cells.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 in which the diploid cells include progenitors that express alpha-fetoprotein.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 in which the progenitors include liver progenitors.

33. (Original) The method of claim 23 in which the tissue is harvested within about six hours after the heartbeat ceased.

34. (Original) The method of claim 23 in which the tissue is harvested within about three hours after the heartbeat ceased.

35.-40. (Canceled)